

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.COPY OF

15 June 1956

*John T. Gammie, Jr.
Chairman*

My dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reply to your letter of 6 June 1956 in which you requested that the Navy Department review the requests received from your Committee concerning the shipment of fats and oils from the free world to Soviet bloc countries. The purpose of the review was to ascertain whether the Navy Department has furnished all possible information asked for and whether the Navy Department has available, or could obtain, any additional information that would be of assistance to the Subcommittee in its investigation.

I have had the appropriate officials in the Navy Department review all the data concerning the requests you have made. I have been assured that all such information has been made available or is currently being processed.

Our letter of 15 February 1956 forwarded certain requested information and stated that the information on tanker voyages to the Soviet bloc during the last quarter of 1955 had not been compiled as of that date. This information has now been tabulated and is forwarded as enclosure (1). The compilation of information concerning tanker voyages to the Soviet bloc during the first quarter of 1956 is currently in the final stage and, if the Committee so requests, will be forwarded when completed.

As you know the material in which your Subcommittee has expressed an interest is assembled from many different sources, some of which must be protected so that they will not be lost. In view of this fact, it may not always be possible to furnish all the material that is desired. I have particular reference here to classified information made available to the Navy Department by another government agency. Such material cannot be furnished by the Navy Department unless the originating agency agrees to declassify it. If the Navy Department does hold classified material originated by another agency and which bears on your inquiries, please be assured that steps will be taken to inform the originating agency of your inquiry so that action may be taken to either declassify the information, or to inform you of the reason why it cannot be declassified, such as protection of information sources.

The receipt of written requests from your Committee wherein specific information has been requested has been greatly appreciated by the Navy Department Agencies concerned with preparing replies to your inquiries. Such specific requests are of material assistance in the preparation of the reply and assure that your inquiry is handled accurately and as expeditiously as possible.

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If offices of the Navy Department can be of further assistance to you in the subject inquiry, or on other matters, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

CHARLES S. THOMAS
Secretary of the Navy

Honorable L. H. Fountain
Chairman, Intergovernmental Relations
Subcommittee
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Encl (1)

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